(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Housing is a State subject and the responsibility of construction of houses lies with the State Governments. However, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation is concerned with the project proposals for the North Eastern States in the areas of housing projects (predominantly for the urban poor), poverty alleviation and slum improvement/ upgradation projects, under 10% lump sum provision of the budget of the Ministry to benefit North Eastern Region including Sikkim. Accordingly, the project proposals were invited from the States of Assam and other North Eastern States including Sikkim and approved. The Government has also launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Renewal Mission (JNNURM) in 2005 to provide housing and infrastructural facilities to slum dwellers and weaker sections of the society in 63 cities in the country under the sub-mission, Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) Programme. Similarly, for non-Mission cities, the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) has been launched with the objective to strive for holistic slum development, with a healthy and enabling environment by providing adequate shelter and basic infrastructure facilities to the slum dwellers including the displaced. To make up shortage of housing units in North-Eastern Region, including Sikkim will depend upon efforts of State Governments.

Dredging Operations for Southern Naval Command

*153. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that dredging operations for Southern Naval Command in Kochi is being carried out by Cochin Port Trust;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this operation is adding to the operating cost of Cochin Port Trust;

(d) if so, the extent thereof; and

(e) whether Cochin Port Trust has taken up the issue with the Ministry of Defence to share the cost so as to reduce its operating cost?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.